

EX-101 19  
DATE 3/11/11  
NO 118161

Good morning my name is Louis Coburn,

I am 49 years old native Montana born and raised here in Helena.

I have several ailments; severe and progressive sarcoidosis which has been in almost all major systems in my body; seizure disorder; degenerative joint disease, mainly affecting my lower back. I have shown symptoms of sarcoidosis since 1984 shortly after I discharged from the Navy, which in 2007 the D.O.N. and the CDC recognized and admitted to over 40,000 case of this disease being found among U.S. Navy Enlisted Men, 1965-1993(1). I was formally diagnosed with sarcoid on 3/17/1989. From 1984 until 1989 I was an employee of MDT formerly known as MDoH. This disease made it impossible for me to even show up for work sometimes up to weeks at a time, and doctors could not tell me what was wrong with me and subsequently led to being declared disabled in 1994. This in its self is a long story of governmental bs.

For the past 18 years I have been at 35% lung capacity, due to the sarcoid attacking my lungs aggressively and as you can see I am on oxygen for this reason. In the last 2 years my lung capacity has increased to 50%, the only difference in treatment has been introduction of MM. The sarcoid by it's self causes pain and great discomfort, but coupled with the degenerative joint disease makes this almost unbearable. I have been on MM for the past 2 years, up until this point I have been prescribed every known painkiller from morphine, percocet, darvocet and tylons with codeine for the past 25 years to deal with the pain I experience. During the past 2 years of using MM, I have weened myself off of almost all major painkillers. Below is a full list of medications that I have been able to reduce or cut out of my treatment, since acquiring my MM card, these include the above mentioned painkillers or as I like to call them pain maskers, as well as sleeping pills and muscle relaxers and last but not least anti-depressants.

Percocet

Darvocet

Tylons 4

Ultram

Lorazepam

Flourazapan

Flexeril

Zoloft

Prozac

Amitriptyline

I like most people have used marijuana in our past, but I had stopped using it for several decades because of the risks of prosecution. I and several other people to my knowledge had thoughts and

misgivings that this was just another tool for law-enforcement to start a database of marijuana user. So as you might think, I was very leary of getting a medical card, for the reason that we sit here today and I actually put it off for 4 years. As you can see if this bill goes through you effectually making thousands of law abiding Montanans into criminals, some even felons ie. the care-givers. You, the legislature has had 6 years to address a law that was passed by voter mandate and have chosen not to until people that are disabled and in pain have come forward and to receive a medical card. During that six years you could have made repairs to it if you thought it was broken, instead now you would try and second guess your constituents and usurp their mandate.

It is ironic to me, that the Grand ole party that was founded to protect individual and states rights is the party that across this nation, as well as this state is making such a concerted effort to take away the rights that they were supposed to protect from the inception of the Republican party. Fighting for Individual and States rights doesn't mean that you throw out the rights of others because you don't agree with them or don't understand them, no it means you fight harder to protect them because sooner or later they are going to try and take yours as well. The fact that you don't agree with my choice of medication and the right use it, doesn't make it your duty to abolish. Do not misunderstand me here, I am not a democrat or republican, I am a Montanan and a American.